

Application No.: 10/777,246

Docket No.: 4898-053

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1-5.

Attachments: Repl. Drwgs. 1-5

MAY 15 2007

Application No.: 10/777,246Docket No.: 4898-053REMARKS

New sheets of drawings including Figures 1-5 and the legend "Prior Art" for each are submitted.

The specification has been amended by adding a cross reference to the foreign application relied on for priority.

The claims have been amended to overcome the objections to them, for clarity and to ensure infringement at the time the goods are sold. Claim 9 has been amended to delete the requirement for passageway areas to increase step by step. This limitation is in new claim 11. New claims 12-15 are respectively similar to claims 1-4 but define certain aspects of applicants' contribution to the art with greater particularity.

Claims 1-10, as amended, are not obvious as a result of Shintoku et al., 6,293,768 in view of Ahn et al., 6,068,453. Page 3 of the Office Action alleges Shintoku et al. discloses a compressor with a front housing 13 and a rear housing 15 enclosing front 11 and rear 12 ends of a cylinder block, wherein the compressor includes refrigerant gas inlet and outlet ports (Fig. 4) on the outer peripheral surface of the cylinder blocks. The Office Action states Shintoku et al. includes discharge passageways 29 in the front and rear cylinder blocks that are connected to the discharge of the cylinder blocks on one side and to a main expansion portion or muffler space 24 disposed between the two passageways. The Office Action also says muffler chamber 24 is formed integrally with the cylinder blocks and positioned outside the cylinder blocks (Fig. 1).

The Office Action admits Shintoku et al. does not disclose the claim 1 requirements for a discharge conduit that passes through a partition that defines a front discharge

Application No.: 10/777,246Docket No.: 4898-053

chamber to be isolated from a front refrigerant gas suction chamber, thereby delivering the gas discharged toward the outside of the compressor. The Office Action also admits Shintoku et al. fails to disclose an auxiliary expansion portion for communicating with the discharge conduit as claim 1 requires. The Office Action relies on Ahn et al., applicants' admitted prior art (see ¶ 0014 of the application as filed), for the features Shintoku et al. fails to disclose. The Office Action also admits that neither Shintoku et al. nor Ahn et al. discloses the requirements of claim 1 for front and rear discharge conduits and front and rear auxiliary expansion portions. The Office Action incorrectly alleges, on page 4 "this constitutes a mere duplication of parts and does not patentably distinguish over the prior art unless a new and unexpected result is produced."

In fact, applicants' structure does produce a new and unexpected result. ¶0019 of the application as filed discusses certain problems the Ahn et al. structure has by stating:

In this prior art, however, since the refrigerant gas pulsation pressure when the refrigerant gas is discharged from the front housing toward the outside of the compressor is not effectively reduced, there is a limitation in the reduction of the refrigerant gas pulsation pressure as a whole, and moreover, where a large discharge muffler having a manifold disposed outside the compressor is provided to solve the problem, there occurs another problem that a volume of the compressor must be eventually increased.

The application indicates, in ¶s 0020, 0063, 0064, 0067, 0069, 0070, the structure of claim 1 overcomes the problems of the Ahn et al. prior art specifically relied on by the Examiner. Because of these improved results, the front and rear discharge conduits and front and rear auxiliary expansions of claim 1 provide a new and unexpected result.

Based on the foregoing, claims 1 and 12 are not obvious as a result of Shintoku et al. and Ahn et al. Consequently, claims 2-11 and 13-15 that respectively depend on

MAY 15 2007

Application No.: 10/777,246

Docket No.: 4898-053

claims 1 and 12 are allowable.

Allowance is in order.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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